



Around the Rock

www.townofblowingrock.com

Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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Blowing Rock Welcomes New Police Chief Eric Brown

With more than 17 years of experience in law enforcement, Blowing Rock Police Sergeant Eric Brown took on the duties of Chief of Police effective December 1, 2006 following the retirement of Chief Owen Tolbert.

In announcing the selection of Brown as Police Chief, Town Manager Scott Hildebran stated "Brown's history with the Blowing Rock Police Department reflects a proven track record of reliability, leadership, and strong commitment to the department and community. I am certain new Chief Brown will continue to lead the department in a positive direction and with professionalism, as did his predecessors Chief Tolbert and Chief (Douglas) Townsend."

Brown, a 15-year veteran of the Blowing Rock Police Department, joined the force in 1991 as a Patrol

Officer and was later promoted to Corporal. In 1997, he was promoted to Sergeant, a position he continued to hold until December 1. Currently, Mr. Brown serves as Alcohol Beverage Control Officer and Drug Enforcement Officer. He has received over 1,000 hours of law enforcement instruction and was a 2005 graduate of the NC. Justice Academy Leadership Development for Law Enforcement Managers course. Mr. Brown holds an intermediate certificate from the N.C. Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. Brown is a native of Watauga County and a graduate of Watauga County High School.

Mr. Brown and his wife, Barbara, reside just outside Blowing Rock. He first began his law enforcement career in 1987 as a deputy with the Watauga County Sheriffs Office. In 1988, he

received the outstanding student award in his Basic Law Enforcement Training.

Town Manager Hildebran stated the selection process included a survey of department personnel, an area chief law enforcement officials interview panel, a local citizens interview panel, a written assignment, and consultation with Department Heads and Town Council. Hildebran noted that new Chief Brown was recently accepted to the Management Development Program at the N.C. Justice Academy beginning in January. This is an eleven-course program over a one-year period designed to develop the knowledge, skills and abilities to function as a progressive leader and innovative manager in a law enforcement agency.

"I have worked with Eric for over 15 years," stated Chief Owen Tolbert "and always



New Police Chief Eric Brown

enjoyed a great working relationship. I think he is committed to this community and the positive relationships we have established with our residents, businesses and visitors. I am confident he will serve the Town effectively".

Mayor J.B. Lawrence commented, "Eric is an excellent selection. His experience and knowledge will be invaluable to Blowing Rock and our community. He has a very personable approach to law enforcement and that models the successful approach of his



Freezing Weather Safety Tips

Be prepared for freezing weather! Winterize plumbing pipes now to help avoid the hassle and costs that are associated with frozen pipes. Cold Weather Checklist

- Know where the main shut-off valve for your

plumbing is located and how to turn it off.

- Eliminate drafts by closing and insulating vents.
- Insulate water pipes.
- Disconnect and drain garden hoses.
- Protect outside pipes and

outside facets.

If you plan to be away from home for an extended period, leave the heat on, or drain your water system before you to. Ask someone to check your house daily while you are away.



Just a friendly reminder :

If you are going out of town, be sure to secure your trash to prevent raccoons from scattering it around. Also, please move cans promptly after trash pickup.

For your convenience, there is a drop-off site located near Aho on US 321.....264-5305

Open: MWF 6:30 am-6:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am-6:00 pm

Open Burning and Yard Waste Collections in Blowing Rock

As many citizens may be aware, the NC Division of Air Quality regulates air standards and prohibits most outdoor burning due to health and safety concerns. In the Blowing Rock town limits, the Town provides local pick-up of yard waste and brush. Therefore, based on State law, open burning of brush, leaves and yard waste is prohibited within the town limits. Campfires and outdoor cooking are exempt from these standards.

The Town provides curbside leaf collection from November 1st to April 1st. In addition, the Town collects large bulky waste items such as furniture, white goods, tree trimmings, hedge cuttings, etc. on a semi-annual basis (Spring and Fall). Other collections are provided as time and weather permits. For im-

mediate collection, the Town recently began a fee-based pick-up on request where items can be picked up within 72 hours.

If you have pick-up needs, please contact Town Hall at (828) 295-5200 for more information.



Leaf Collection

Important Numbers

Town Hall.....295-5200
 Planning & Inspections.....295-5240
 Water/Sewer/Garbage.....295-5200
 Parks & Recreation.....295-5222
 Water - After Hours.....295-5210

Non-Emergency

Police Department.....295-5210
 Fire Department.....295-5218

Upcoming Meetings

Town Council

1/9/2007 7:00 pm
 2/13/2007 7:00 pm

Planning Board

1/18/2007 7:00 pm
 2/15/2007 7:00 pm

Tourism Development Authority

1/2/2007 8:30 am

Upcoming Events

Parks and Recreation
 Kinder Basketball signups begin
 Jan. 3. See the Town website for
 details or call 295-5222

2007 Winterfest
 January 25-28, 2007
www.blowingrockwinterfest.com



Have You Paid Your 2006 Property Taxes?

To those who have not paid the 2006 Town of Blowing Rock property taxes, the last date before interest accrues is January 5, 2007. If you pay by mail your payment must be post-marked on or before January 5, 2007 to avoid interest penalty. If you have questions about the assessed value of your property please contact Watauga County Tax Assessors Office at (828)-265-8041. For your convenience you can now pay property taxes,

utility bills and building permit fees online at :

www.townofblowingrock.com.

For assistance or questions regarding your property tax bill or making online payments, please call Town Hall at (828) 295-5200 and we will be happy to assist you!



Town Offers Convenience of Online Payments

As part of our commitment to providing citizens with efficient, convenient service, the Town of Blowing Rock is announcing a partnership with Official Payments to offer payment of taxes, utilities, and building permits and CUPs by credit and debit cards and echecks effective November 7, 2006. To use this easy service, go online and log onto www.townofblowingrock.com and select the red **Online Payments** link.

Instructions for paying online:

1. Go to www.townofblowingrock.com (click on **Online Payment** link)
2. When prompted, enter all required information
3. If calling to make your payment use Jurisdiction Code 4387
4. Applicable fees will be applied by Official Payments Corp

